

**Commissioner Deborah A. Gist's Weekly Field Memo
October 16, 2009**

**From the Department of Elementary and Secondary
Education (RIDE):**

Grade-8 2009-10 [TechLiteracy Assessment](#) notice to principals

RIDE seeks nominees for [Presidential Award](#) for Excellence in
Mathematics and Science Teaching

[Video Streaming](#) Partnership to be based at Rhode Island PBS

From other state agencies:

Minutes of weekly conference call on [H1N1](#)

Other:

[Feinstein](#) Foundation announces campaign to fight hunger, raise
funds for schools

From RIDE:

**Grade-8 2009-10 TechLiteracy Assessment notice to
principals**

The RIDE office of Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability will
send the following notice on the Grade-8 2009-10 TechLiteracy

Assessment to all middle-school principals and curriculum directors:

RE: Eighth Grade TechLiteracy Assessment 2009-2010

Note: 8th Grade TechLiteracy Assessment testing windows:
Dec. 7-18th and/or May 10-21st

Action Required: Middle School Principals must identify TechLiteracy Proctors by Oct. 28th

Action Required: Proctors must register themselves for training session on November 17th.

The school year has gotten off to a busy start, and before we know it, the Eighth Grade TechLiteracy Assessment will be upon us. The testing windows for the 2009-10 school year are **December 7th-18th and/or May 10th-21st**. There are two windows to accommodate the variety of ways that schools implement technology instruction, scheduling of classes, and access to technology. Options will be discussed during the training session in November.

In response to last year's feedback, RIDE is modifying the front-loading of students and proctors into the Learning.com interface. There will now be a **District Coordinator** and **School Proctors** for each class. Those people must be identified now to prepare for the upcoming trainings and testing windows. The District Coordinator will be your District Technology Director. **Please contact Pat Kozaczka at pat.kozaczka@ride.ri.gov with the names of the individual proctors at your school by October 28th.**

There will be two training sessions on November 17 for test proctors and/or district coordinators. This will take place at

the Lippitt School, in Warwick. (Session A – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Session B – 12:30-3:30 p.m.) **Participants must register themselves for the training.** Participants can register through the RIDE calendar. Directions are as follows:

Visit the **RIDE website** at www.ride.ri.gov

Select the **calendar tab** at the bottom right hand corner of the page

Select **[Open Full Calendar]**

Select **November 17**

Select **Session A or B**

Select **Register Now**

Select **Green Register Button.**

Once there, participants will see that it asks for a userid/password. There is text on the page that says, ***You may use an existing eRIDE user account to login.*** ***You may also create a workshop registration account by going [here](#).*** Select the word **“here”** if you do not have an eRIDE user account. Participants will be prompted to create a user id for themselves. Do not delay in registering. There will be only one day of training available this year, so sessions will fill quickly!

RIDE seeks nominees for Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Does your district have outstanding elementary (grades K-6) mathematics and science teachers whom you would like to recognize? The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest honor in the nation that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher can receive for outstanding teaching. What better way to

acknowledge excellence in your schools than to nominate the teachers who exemplify their profession!

The process to nominate teachers is simple. Simply go to the PAEMST Web site at www.paemst.org and fill in the on-line form. Once the nomination is submitted, the PAEMST will notify the teacher and provide him or her with information about the application process. To assist teachers with the application process, four previous national awardees (Ann Battey, Ann Marie Simonelli, Domenic Giusti, and Ron Poirier) serve as mentors and will send out announcements of technical-assistance sessions that they will conduct in the near future.

These are the eligibility criteria for nominees. Candidates must:

- teach mathematics or science at the K-6th grade level in a public or private school;
- teach in one of the 50 states or the four U.S. jurisdictions;
- hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution;
- be a full-time employee of the school or school district, as determined by state and district policies, and teach at least 50% of the time;
- have at least 5 years of full-time, K-12 teacher experience prior to the 2009-10 academic school year; and
- not have received the PAEMST award at the national level in any previous competition or category.

Rhode Island has many wonderful teachers, and those you nominate could be state or national Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science for 2010.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peter McLaren, of the RIDE Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability, at 222-8454, or by e-mail at peter.mclaren@ride.ri.gov. Thank you for your continued support for mathematics and science education.

Video Streaming Partnership to be based at Rhode Island PBS

The video-streaming partnership between RIDE and Rhode Island PBS, through which participating school districts and libraries receive access to more than 50,000 video programs and lesson plans from the Discovery Channel and other sources, will be based at Rhode Island PBS, as of December 1st.

Dr. María Velásquez de Tondreau, the director of education services for RI-PBS, will continue as the district liaison for the video streaming partnership. Dr. Velásquez has been on loan to RIDE for the past year. For information about the Discovery Channel and other video-streaming programs, districts may still contact Dr. Velásquez at RIDE, at 222-8467, or maria.velasquez@ride.ri.gov, through November. She will send her new contract information to all districts when she returns to Rhode Island PBS in December.

From other state agencies:

Minutes of weekly conference call on H1N1

The Health Department has posted the minutes of the weekly conference call on H1N1 on its Web site, at:

<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/schoolleadreshipcall/1014.pdf>

Other:

Feinstein Foundation announces campaign to fight hunger, raise funds for schools

The Feinstein Foundation (of Cranston) has announced a nationwide campaign to fight hunger and raise money for schools. From November 15th through December 15th, the Foundation will donate matching funds to schools whose students raise money to fight hunger. For information about this campaign, see the foundation Web site: www.feinsteinfoundation.org